

## *Prophecy Versus Tongues.*

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The newest commodity being offered the world public in the name of Evangelism is the excitement of speaking in tongues. Having failed to convince the world to ignore the reality of the Falling Away in favor of signs of revival **{as Falwell stated shortly before his death, there are 3 great signs of current revival of Christianity in this nation, and those are the National Evangelistic Movement under Ted Haggard, the purpose driven movement under Rick Warren, and the end times books by Tim LeHaye}**, now "the church" **{a favorite term of evangelists like Jimmy Swaggart}** has turned to a re-emphasis from Donnie Swaggart on the speaking in unknown tongues. Oh, they have always been on the religious scene; and of course any historian on Christianity, especially in America, knows that the Pentecostal movement broke out all over America in denominations from Catholicism to Presbyterianism approximately in the 1980s, largely under the leadership of the Evangelists Oral Roberts and Jimmy Swaggart.

Falwell's signs of revival having failed--LeHaye's books are becoming seen as fiction based on fiction with a non-biblical "rapture" and "one thousand years", Warren's purpose driven books are more realistically seen as a substitution of individual Christian wants and desires for the spirit or Christ driven life, and

Ted Haggard, well you know about Ted Haggard--the new<sup>1</sup> "itching ears" doctrine and preaching is centered around unknown tongues.

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*A5-1: Although the Bible in I Corinthians 14 recognizes a second kind of speaking in tongues, that magnifies the individual over the group, "tongues" in I Corinthians and more importantly in Acts 2:4 are always other known languages. In fact, the original purpose of tongues as given by God through the Holy Spirit was to communicate the Gospel with understanding in other known languages.*

1. God the Holy Spirit is a Master Linguist: God the Holy Spirit used the gifts of other known tongues to communicate with understanding to the Jews from all over the known world who were there at Jerusalem for the celebration of the first Day of Pentecost after the Ascension of Christ.

**"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues {other known tongues to communicate with understanding to the Jews who were there for celebration of the first Day of Pentecost after the Ascension of Christ} from all over the world}, as the Spirit gave them utterance." (Acts 2:4)**

2. God the Holy Spirit also knows how to attract the right kind of multitude: Yes, there was confusion on this first day of Pentecost after the Ascension; however unlike the confusion today which is caused by the abuse of an unknown tongue that no one in the congregation knows except the plant of one of the 250 staff members, the confusion back then was the marvel of hearing unedu-

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1. Not so much new as revived in order to gain attention, a certain uniqueness of ministry and evangelism, and to collect a whole lot of members and money, all commendable if in reality it were real evidence of the filling of the Holy Spirit; however since serious Bible students know that the Holy Spirit is on the very verge of being withdrawn from this earth as the Falling Away peaks, what we are in reality seeing now in these services is substitutes for the Spirit. Or at best, what we are seeing is lame efforts of a few church members to magnify themselves by practicing in public what, according to the clear teachings of the Scripture in I Corinthians 14 and Acts..what should be practiced in their closets privately at home.

cated Galileans speak in the natives tongues {"there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven"} of all the Jews present.

"And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused {a far different kind of confusion than that of speaking in unknown tongues, it was rather amazement that each from every nation under heaven being able to hear and understand in their native tongues}, because everyone heard them speak in his own language." (Acts 2:6)

NOTE: Christianity at large would come closer to believing that another Day of Pentecost is happening at the Family Worship Service in Baton Rouge Louisiana if the rapid movements of these tongues let loose by pent-up emotions actually communicated in a few of the many known languages of the world. However, it is obvious to those who listen that it is the repetition of learned behavior, not really a known language from the Holy Spirit of God.

Second NOTE: Now, note that there is another category of tongues, that of an unknown tongue that is permitted under the rules of the Bible, and in I Corinthians and other scriptures, that is primarily for private devotions in a closet and are carefully fenced in with many rules of the Word of God to prevent confusion in public worship, primarily to enhance communication in the worship service by the use of prophesy over unknown tongues, or the use of prophesy in a known tongue if the congregation demands it, say in French or Spanish.

If some of these members of the Family Worship Center would during worship service suddenly start speaking in another real language, then we would be amazed that a movement of the Spirit of God had taken place. {This is not what is happening, but this is exactly what the Evangelists of this church want us, by confusion, to think is happening! It is obvious that they are trying to identify with what happened on the Day of Pentecost, and what should happen in I Corinthians 14 without a close reading and exegesis of I Corinthians 14.}

*A5-2: Listening to the Gospel in our own language of birth (Acts 2:8) is far different from being confused as to the source, distracted by the disturbance in public worship, and with the substitute of hidden code for a communication in understanding.*

1. These modern day marvels of the Day of Pentecost might as well try to convince us that they are Galileans.

**"Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, 'Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born.'" (Acts 2:7,8)**

2. "Understanding" is the key word of the Word of God in I Corinthians.

Granted that the subject under discussion in I Corinthians is that of "tongues" and of the speaking in tongues during public worship; however the key word to the understanding of the both the spirit and intent of I Corinthians 14 is the key word of "understanding".

**NOTE: If Swaggart only sought to represent his Pentecostal denomination rather than "the church", as we so often hear from him, then we could tolerate such outrageous worship behavior in the name of evangelism more readily! And there is no doubt that all of us in this nebulous organism called the church {supposedly the same thing as Christianity}, all of us Christians could use more of the influence of the Holy Spirit in our lives and churches; however, it can not and should not be made to be synonymous with the speaking in an unknown tongue. You will find that those who speak publicly in unknown tongues are by and large not at all 7 day a week Christians: unknown tongues is a characteristic of those who get excited for a few moments on Sunday and then the rest of the week forget about the influence of Christ and the Holy Spirit.**

(1). While there is an unknown tongue {not a real language} where a Christian speaks mysteriously to God in the spirit, this is far different from the speaking with **"understanding"** to other men in public worship.

NOTE: Sorry, but what is going on in churches like in Baton Rouge--really a sorry misrepresentation of Christianity and the Gospel to the world--is more closely akin to the hypocrisy in prayer of the Pharisees that Jesus condemned than it is of the speaking in known tongues of the Day of Pentecost.

"And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think they will be heard for their many words." (Matthew 6:5-8)

And we keep hearing a lot from this new generation of Pentecostals about "the language of prayer". Well, the real language of prayer is given in the following words (Matthew 6:9), starting with the easy to understand words of "Our Father which art in heaven"; then continuing with the straightforward and boring, but not to God, words of "hallowed by Your name"; and so on and on through the Lord's prayer which is the real language of prayer.

3. What we marvel about today is that in spite of the clear teachings of I Corinthians a younger generation of Pentecostals is willing so willingly and fragrantly, in the name of notoriety, able to violate the rules and regulations of speaking in tongues. {Granted Donnie has a plant staff member in the congregation to give the appearance of honoring Scripture by interpreting his mumbo-jumbo, but we also can not understand the interpreter; and quite frankly we think that interpreter delivers the same line not matter what one speaker of tongues, or another, says.}

NOTE: Why should we other Christians be subjected to the authority of the Word of God with its rules and regulations for the proper use of tongues, when one church at one point in history, and in Baton Rouge can so openly violate the rules and regulations of I Corinthians 14.

*A5-3: We must come back to “understanding” in favor of a present emphasis of what is the gist of I Corinthians 14: while 2 kinds of tongues are recognized in I Corinthians 14, first an unknown tongue with restricted guidelines for use and then the known tongues of other languages, PROPHECY, PROPHECY, and more PROPHECY is to have pre-eminence, priority, and public presentation over Tongues.*

How can you miss reading in I Corinthians the emphasis of Prophecy over Tongues.

1. Prophecy provides to the whole church the “edification and exhortation and comfort to men” that Tongues can not provide.

**NOTE: Have we at the same time lost the real preaching of prophecy at the same time we have lost Evangelism in the mire of money making and worship in tongues and advertisements for money and profit.**

**“For he who speaks in a tongue...BUT he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.” (I Corinthians 14:3)**

2. The prophecy of Jeremiah has the tendency to jar the church today back into the spiritual realities that are being conveniently ignored.

(1). The Promised Covenant of the Spirit in the mind and heart of the Christian (Jeremiah 31:33) was introduced with Prophecy, not Tongues.

a. The New Covenant of the Spirit of God in heart and mind.

**“But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” (Jeremiah 31:33)**

b. The democratic nature of sin forgiveness and prophecy.

"No more shall every man teach his neighbor; and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." (Jeremiah 31:34)

**NOTE:** Hopefully you see in the tenor and intent of this, the democratic nature of prophesy that started in Christianity simultaneously with the coming of the Holy Spirit in great power and glory on the first day of Pentecost after the Ascension of Christ, and hope that you also see the connection to the Ascension of Christ.

(2) In Jeremiah, Christ, the Promised "Branch of Righteousness" (Jeremiah 23:5,6), is presented suddenly and in the context of false prophesy and false prophets.

a. Before introduction in Jeremiah 23:5-6 of the Christ, the Branch of Righteousness.

"Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture! says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: 'You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings,' says the LORD." (Jeremiah 23:1,2)

b. After introduction to the Branch of Righteousness.

"My heart within me is broken because of the prophets; all my bones shake. I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine has overcome." (Jeremiah 23:9)

"For both prophet and priest are profane; yes, in My house I have found their wickedness,' says the LORD." (Jeremiah 23:11)

"Also I have seen a horrible thing in the prophets of Jerusalem: they commit adultery and walk in lies; they also strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that no one turns back from his wickedness. All of them are like Sodom to Me, and her inhabitants like Gomorrah." (Jeremiah 23:14)

*A5-4: The Prophet Joel and the Apostle Peter Explain the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2:14-21 and with the quote from Joel 2:28-32 in 4 primary stages that we dare not neglect if our Preaching is to fall into the category of PROPHECY.*

1. COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO EARTH: The Spirit is democratically poured out on all Christian flesh and with the Spirit comes democratic prophesy.

**"And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and daughters shall prophesy." (Acts 2:17 and Joel 2:28)**

2. CREATION CONTINUES TO GROAN: Wonders in the heavens above and the earth beneath start, or really continue as the whole creation groans, which finally climatically just before the Second Coming of Christ lead to the end of this old earth and the ushering in of a new earth.

**"I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood and fire and vapor of smoke.." (Acts 2:19)**

3. ALL FINISHED IN ONE GREAT DAY OF THE LORD AND LORD: That great and awesome One Day of the LORD and Lord, of OT and NT, all to happen in a finished manner at the Second Coming of Christ.

**"...before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD..." (Acts 2:20)**

4. SALVATION: Democratic and widespread salvation, "whosoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

**NOTE: You did not see tongues anywhere in those 4 great historical events that are sent from the presence of God; however you did see twice, in 2:17 and again in 2:18, PROPHECY.**

*A5-5: Jesus, the Ascended Christ, Appointed the Prophets of Prophecy the same time He appointed evangelists, apostles, prophets, and teachers; and it has fallen to the contemporary church to ignore "prophecy" at the same time as the heralding of "tongues".*

**NOTE: Yes, we would know some so-called pastors and evangelists who would say that it is a spontaneous movement of the Spirit; and yet we know well how every Friday night is appointed by the pastors, not the Spirit of God, to be a speaking in tongues night!**

Why should they be inversely proportional: that is as the speaking in unknown tongues goes up, the speak in the known languages of known tongues by way of prophesy goes down. One would think it was a conspiracy!

1. Jesus Appointed Prophecy.

**"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers..." (Ephesians 4:11)**

2. Today the church is ignoring "prophecy" and "prophets". You hear of all these evangelists, every church has some pastors and teachers, and we study and preach the apostles and prophets; however you do not ever again hear of any prophets, to speak of, and you do not hear Bible teachers making it clear that real preaching--that is of edification, exhortation, and comfort--is PROPHECY.

3. Tongues take the place of the testimonies of prophecy. Think of these TV services, you do not hear any testimonies in plain known languages democratically from the people, especially those not on the staff, but you do hear unknown tongues.

**NOTE: It is almost as if to "entertain, convince, and inform", the goal of good writing and speaking has been put in for preaching and tongues what is supposed to be "edification, exhortation, and comfort".**

*A5-6: Exegesis of I Corinthians 14. Pentecostals go to I Corinthians 14 to prove the validity of the speaking in unknown tongues, and other denominations go there to justify a lack of tongues in their worship service. Would it be possible to objectively read and do a straightforward exegesis of that famous chapter?*

1. However first we should look at the bottom line of this chapter; for in most cases where churches violate the rules and regulations of I Corinthians 14, they are also guilty of: "did the word of God come originally from you? Or was it you only that it reached?" (I Corinthians 14:36)

**NOTE: Some, failing to acknowledge the proper authority of Scripture (14:37), would even ignorantly (14:38) defend their own authority to initiate revelations from God to add to the 66 books.**

2. Bottom, bottom line--I Corinthians 14:39:

(1). "Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy..."

(2). "...do not forbid to speak with tongues"

3. I Corinthians 14:1: Seek earnestly after love and spiritual gifts, giving priority in all gifts to the democratic preaching of prophesy.

4. Paul wishes that all Christians could speak the many languages of tongues, but at the top of the list is that they might all prophesy (14:5a).

5. The Christian that prophesies in the sight of God is greater than the Christian who speaks in tongues (14:5b).

6. Of course that bad habit in public worship can be turned around if you bring the interpreter up to the microphone and let him carefully and clearly interpret {equivalent of speaking in a known tongue} so that the whole "church may receive edification" (14:5c).

7. What good is it to you even if the Apostle Paul, or one like him, comes to your public service speaking with some tongues that you do not understand. (14:6a)
8. The congregation is profited by the already revealed revelations of Paul and the other Apostles, of the revealed 66 books from the Prophets and the Apostles--as we know where they came from. (14:6b).
9. Your congregation is profited when there is known verbal communication by teaching or preaching {prophesying} (14:6c)
10. We enjoy the music so much, with its distinctions in sound. (14:7)
11. Many of us do not know what to do with such jarring and uncertain sounds, like a trumpet being mouthed by a kid (14:8). You are certainly not preparing us for anything useful that I know of, certainly not the language of prayer with which we are well accustomed and should not be so insulted.
12. Like in your famous music, we want more "words easy to understand" (14:9). You are putting on TV some peoples whose tongues are moving rapidly without real sounds coming out, speaking only in the air.
13. Since there are so many languages in the world, we can not say for certain this mumbling is not a known language--and certainly all languages in the world are important--however if we participants in worship by TV or in person do not get the meaning {and we don't, believe me}, then that person speaking is a foreigner and we are a foreigner to them, hardly people without communication that feel a oneness in worship (14:11).
14. Zeal for a demonstration of spiritual gifts is admirable, yet one of the prime rules that zeal from the pulpit and from the congregation "be for the edification of the church"; for surely it is for the excellence of the total church that you are speaking (14:12).
15. Do you preaching and praying half-heartedly with your spirit in an unknown tongue, but your understanding is not there; and it is the understanding plus the emotion that yields real Christian fruit (14:13).

16. Always in worship you must keep in mind the "uninformed" listener, and what he understands of what you are preaching or praying (14:15). They will think that you are crazy or at best, a little weird and not in a good way.

17. You can give thanks very well using an unknown tongue, but no one is built up (14:17) It is not that emotion only that builds understanding, but spirit and understanding.

18. If you have to chose between only 5 words spoken with understanding or 10,000 words in a foreign tongue, chose the path of understanding that will teach others (14:19).

19. In your worship service be mature in understanding and babes only in devious motivations. (14:20)

20. Tongues are a sign for the unbelievers of the world, prophesy is for believers. (14:21)

21. When your church comes together in worship with the uninformed or unbelievers present, they will and do say that "you are out of your mind" (14:23)

22. Let all revive the old fashioned Bible-based custom, tradition, and command of prophesy **{testify in a clear fashion}**, then the unbelievers in attendance by TV or in person are both convinced and convicted (14:24)

**NOTE: I guarantee you that few, except the most weird, are listening to or understanding that staff member at the back shouting out.**

23. You want the attendee to fall down and worship God in repentance and faith, free from the pressure of your congregation to speak in an unknown tongue, then give him more to understand along with the spirit of emotion and from all. Also it will increase the reports that God is among us, rather the reports now that God can not be there in all that pretence, self-edification, and confusion (14:25)

**NOTE: These rules and regulations regarding the speaking in tongues during public worship will be continued in the next chapter, those of I Corin-**

thians 14:26-40. In the mean time "Let all things be done decently and in order." (I Corinthians 14:40)

